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DP

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund

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10 September 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Third regular session 1996
9-13 September 1996, New York

Draft decision

96/XX. Management, accountability and the Reserve for Field Accommodation

The Executive Board

1. Welcomes the report contained in document DP/1996/28/Add.3 and the additional information provided to the Executive Board by the Administrator and the United Nations Board of Auditors as well as the transparent and forthcoming manner in which information on the Reserve for Field Accommodation has been provided;

2. Notes with grave concern the failure of management oversight and control relating to the proper application of the Financial Regulations and Rules and the supervision of staff and contracted parties that have contributed to the problems outlined in document DP/1996/28/Add.3, concerning the Reserve for Field Accommodation;

3. Welcomes in this context the investigations, reviews and actions initiated so far by the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen financial and management control of the Reserve for Field Accommodation;

4. Requests the Administrator to take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with all Financial Regulations and Rules;

5. Further requests the Administrator to address any structural or systemic problems relating to financial control and management supervision that have come to light as part of the investigation of the Reserve for Field Accommodation as soon as possible in order to ensure that this remains an isolated incident;

6. Urges the Administrator to finalize the investigation on the management of the Reserve for Field Accommodation as soon as possible;

7. Endorses the revised accounting treatment for the Reserve for Field Accommodation and notes with concern that the overcommitment and overexpenditure will reach a level of $62.8 million by 31 December 1996;

8. Approves the proposal of the Administrator that the activities under the Reserve for Field Accommodation in the future cover only housing premises and that office premises be handled separately, bearing in mind the need to enhance transparency of the activities covered by the Reserve for Field Accommodation and those related to office premises;

9. Reaffirms, in the context of the housing premises, the principle that, where possible, UNDP should dispose of housing units it either owns or operates under government ownership and that any future housing requirements be met together with the host country Government;

10. Requests the Administrator in collaboration with the Joint Consultative Group on Policy partners, in the context of the implementation of paragraph 44 of General Assembly resolution 50/120 on common premises, to address and find a common understanding of how to deal with outstanding contributions as well as cost-sharing, payment and ownership relating to future constructions;

11. Further requests the Administrator to report on the implementation of the present decision at the first regular session 1997.

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Third regular session 1996
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DRAFT DECISION

96/XX. United Nations Development Fund for Women

The Executive Board

1. Welcomes the report of the external evaluation of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, in accordance with Executive Board decision 96/32;

2. Takes note with appreciation of the initial actions being undertaken by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the proposals on follow-up to the recommendations of the Fund's external evaluation, as reflected in the reaction of the Fund to the evaluation report given during the current session;

3. Requests the United Nations Development Fund for Women to elaborate on the actions it has taken as follow up to the external evaluation by the first regular session 1997;

Programme strategies

4. Decides that the United Nations Development Fund for Women should produce a strategy and supporting business plan that emphasizes its catalytic, mainstreaming and advocacy roles. This should also demonstrate the Fund's intention to work increasingly with strategic and capacity-building activities. The Fund should report orally on progress by the first regular session of the Executive Board in 1997 and present the strategy paper and business plan during the annual session 1997;

5. Recommends further that the United Nations Development Fund for Women continue to focus its programme and strengthen programme design and performance;

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Management and administration

6. Authorizes the United Nations Development Fund for Women to take appropriate measures regarding its management information systems and personnel situation commensurate with its financial resources, bearing in mind the need to keep administrative costs under control;

7. Recommends that the United Nations Development Fund for Women give consideration to increasing the number of regional advisers in order to provide field-level technical guidance in support of capacity-building to take forward the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women commensurate with its financial resources;

Coordination

8. Requests that the Fund, in undertaking any relevant advocacy activities, cooperate closely with the relevant United Nations organs and bodies, in particular the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat, in order to ensure that its activities form part of the system-wide efforts of the United Nations in the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women;

9. Further requests the Fund to provide its reports to the Commission on the Status of Women;

Relationship with the United Nations Development Programme

10. Takes note of the complementarity and value that the United Nations Development Fund for Women in its role as an advocate and broker for the empowerment of women brings to the United Nations Development Programme;

11. Approves the request of the Administrator that the United Nations Development Fund for Women be included among those agencies that may access funds from the support to policy and programme development (SPPD) facility, which will replace the TSS-1 facility in January 1997; and that the modality of direct execution by the Fund for UNDP resources be further explored;

Financial and reporting arrangements

12. Endorses the measures that have been taken to improve the financial management of the United Nations Development Fund for Women and authorizes the Fund to re-establish its operational reserve initially at the level of $3 million to be reviewed at the first regular session 1997 as part of the overall review of the partial funding mechanism of the Fund;

13. Recommends that the General Assembly review the role of the Consultative Committee of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, bearing in mind the need for appropriate governance of the Fund;

14. Further invites the United Nations Development Fund for Women to continue its efforts to diversify its resource based by, inter alia, fund-raising from the private sector;

15. Decides that the United Nations Development Fund for Women resume reporting to the Executive Board on its work biennially as appropriate, preferably during its annual session, except where separate reporting arrangements have been requested.